

## **Puppy's First Visit to the Grooming Salon at Animal Hospital of Shawnee Hills**



### **Your new puppy...**

He is a bouncy, wiggly, ball of fluff that fills your life with endless love and fun. He adores you and depends on you to supply his every want and need.

You want to do everything right; feed him the proper food, teach him manners and basic obedience, and make sure his medical and grooming needs are filled.

### **Early Grooming is Essential!**

Teach your puppy the basics. Gently touch him all over every day. Don't forget his feet and toes. When your puppy is comfortable with being handled, you are ready to advance to brushing and combing.

Puppies should be introduced to professional grooming when they are about **twelve weeks old**. Contact your groomer/stylist to discuss your puppy's grooming needs, and to make an appointment for his first grooming.

Working as a team, you and your groomer will provide the care that your puppy needs to look and feel his best.

### **Your Puppy's First Visit to the Grooming Salon...**

Your groomer may suggest that you bring your puppy to salon for a couple of short visits to familiarize him with all the sights and sounds of the salon before his actual appointment.

Other groomers prefer that you bring him in for his appointment and they will allow your puppy to become accustomed to the activity in the salon as they go through the grooming process.

### **How Long Will it Take?**

His first few appointments may be quite lengthy. It is extremely important for your puppy to trust his groomer and to be comfortable with everything the groomer does to him. With gently guidance, he will learn that grooming is an enjoyable experience and not something to be feared.

Your groomer will give you a time to return to pick up your puppy, or will call you when he is finished. Make sure to give a contact number where you can be reached at any time.

Please wait to be notified that your puppy is ready. If your puppy sees you or hears your voice, he could become so excited that it may be impossible to finish his groom.

### **Preparing for the "Big Day"!**

Set aside time every day to brush and comb your puppy. Make it your special "together time." Reward your puppy with plenty of praise and some treats.

Take him for short rides in your car to get him used to traveling. Be sure to exercise your puppy right before his grooming appointment to allow him to relieve himself. Bring along one of this favorite toys.

### **Help your Puppy Enjoy his Grooming Experience!**

On your way to the grooming salon- be happy! If you feel stressed and nervous, your puppy will pick up on your feelings and may become fearful and apprehensive.

Your pet's grooming salon is his special place. Allow him to anticipate and associate the professional grooming experience with fun and enjoyment.

### **The Main Objective...**

The most important accomplishment of your puppy's first grooming session is.. that he likes it! His first experience-positive or negative- will remain with him forever.



## What happens during my Puppy's Grooming Session?

First your puppy will be thoroughly brushed. This will allow him to become familiar with his groomer as he speaks softly and strokes him gently. Then he will begin clipping and scissoring his coat.

It is important that your puppy is not rushed through the grooming. He needs to be introduced to all the new things that are happening to him at a comfortable pace.

Before his bath, your groomer will clean your puppy's ears and clip his toenails and may brush his teeth. Then he will place a drop of eye protector in his eyes to keep any suds from irritating them if he should shake.

The next step is a warm bath with a high quality puppy shampoo massaged throughout his coat, followed by conditioner. A very thorough rinsing completes that part of the bathing process.

Your puppy is immediately dried with towels and then fluff dried to avoid any chills. When he is completely dry, his groomer will finish styling him. His groom may be completed with bows or a bandana and pet cologne.

When you return, your puppy will greet you with kisses and a furiously wagging tail, as he shows off his new hairdo.

## After the Groom...

Being clipped and groomed is a completely new experience for your puppy. He may feel "funny" and may want to rub himself on the carpet or furniture, or he may scratch himself.

A little of this is normal, but do not let him cause any irritation to himself. Remember that his freshly clipped nails may be sharp and can easily irritate his puppy skin. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your groomer immediately.

## Taking care of your Puppy at home...

Between professional groomings, you may need to brush and bathe your puppy at home. Your groomer can recommend and supply the equipment and coat care products that you will need. She will also be happy to demonstrate the correct brushing and combing techniques that you need to learn to properly care for your puppy.

## Mission Accomplished... a Happy Puppy!

Because you and your professional groomer took the time to introduce your puppy to grooming in a step-by-step, gently, loving way, you made your puppy's all- important first visit to the grooming salon a wonderful experience that will help him enjoy being groomed throughout his life.

Information courtesy of Barkleigh  
Productions –  
[www.barkleigh.com](http://www.barkleigh.com)

## Questions? Concerns?

Feel free to call our hospital or stop by to speak with one of our experienced groomers! Interested in seeing some of their grooming photos? Check out their portfolios on our website:

<http://www.shawneehillsvet.com/grooming.shtml>

## Ready to make an appointment?

You can schedule your puppy's grooming appointment with our front desk team by calling 614.389.6455!



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